



# Austin Independent School District

## Department of Program Evaluation

### RESULTS OF THE AISD HIGH SCHOOL EXIT SURVEY CLASS OF 2008

#### McCALLUM HIGH SCHOOL

The sixth annual AISD High School Exit Survey was administered online<sup>1</sup> to seniors in every AISD High School during the Spring of 2008. This report contains the results for the McCallum High School Class of 2008. Where available, longitudinal data are presented to compare with the current 2008 responses. In addition, average results from all AISD high schools are presented alongside results for McCallum for comparison purposes. In total, 3,192 students in the Class of 2008 completed the survey, including 288 students from McCallum. Longitudinal tests for statistical significance were conducted with district-level data (see district-level report).

**Table 1. High School Exit Survey Response Rates, Classes of 2005 to 2008**

	Percentage of Enrolled Seniors Responding <sup>2</sup>			
	Class of 2005	Class of 2006	Class of 2007	Class of 2008
<b>McCallum</b>	84.8%	86.1%	77.8%	75.8%
<b>All High Schools</b>	85.3%	86.0%	82.0%	74.8% ↓

Student responses are organized into seven general topics areas: Open-Ended Comments; Postsecondary Intentions and Family Support; High School Experiences, Campus Climate, and Civic Engagement; Instruction and Technology; Postsecondary Preparation and Advising; and Final Thoughts. Some of the notable trends at this campus include:

- **Extracurricular activities.** Compared to district seniors as a whole, McCallum seniors appeared to be more involved in music and sport activities.
- **College preparation.** McCallum seniors seemed to participate more in college preparation than other seniors. Compared to seniors district-wide, greater percentages of McCallum seniors reported taking the PSAT exam, completing and submitting financial aid forms, completing and submitting scholarship applications, taking college entrance exams, and completing ACC courses.
- **College selection.** It appeared for McCallum seniors the ability to live at home and attend college, the reputation of colleges' academic program, and the ability to take online courses were factors they considered less important than did seniors from other AISD high schools.

<sup>1</sup> Facilitators on each campus, primarily *Project ADVANCE* counselors, were responsible for ensuring that all graduating seniors were given the opportunity to complete the survey.

<sup>2</sup> Corrected response rate is 84.0% (see Appendix in district-level report for detailed information about response rates for 2008). Response rates are based on enrollment during the sixth 6-week reporting period. Due to the enrollment of some special education seniors with severe cognitive disabilities, a 100% uncorrected response rate was not expected.

## INDIVIDUAL ITEM RESPONSES FOR MCCALLUM HIGH SCHOOL

### OPEN ENDED COMMENTS

The first item on the survey is open-ended so that students have the opportunity to give feedback to district administrators before they have received any prompts or exposure to the broad themes within the survey. The responses below are to the question, ***“What is the ONE thing that you especially want the administration of AISD to know?”***

Two hundred and three McCallum students (70%) provided a response<sup>3</sup>. Although many students expressed positive feelings about McCallum (especially the teachers and staff), most of the comments were negative and focused on the building facilities and problems with the required classes of advisory period and Small Learning Centers. Students also mentioned the Fine Arts Academy at the school. Commonly identified themes expressed by the Class of 2008 include:

- **Building and physical environment.** Students overwhelmingly criticized the condition of the bathrooms and other rooms such as the hallways and gym. *“I would want them to know that the restrooms in McCallum are horrible. They are broke down and need to be fixed.” “Our bathrooms are not clean.”* Other students said, *“that the bathrooms are disgusting and torn to pieces...it's embarrassing how much graffiti is in there and broken doors.”* and *“that the facilities at mccallum are horrible.”*
- **Advisory period and Small Learning Centers.** Many students disagreed with AISD's policy requiring them to attend Advisory period and Small Learning Centers. *“Advisory was almost completely useless and a waste of our school time as seniors.” “No SLCs and no advisory;” “Small Learning Centers do not work.”* Another student said, *“I think that the LSC's are not usefull and they have not made much of a difference.”*
- **McCallum Fine Arts Academy.** Seniors talked about their positive experiences with the Fine Arts Academy. Many mentioned how more funding should be made available for the Academy. *“Fund the McCallum Fine Arts Academy program. (best program ever);” “I really liked the interaction of McCallum's Academy and school. I think that's how the rest of Austin high school academies should be modeled.”* and ***“MCCALLUM NEEDS MONEY FOR THE ACADEMY! Especially DANCE!”***

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<sup>3</sup> All student quotes are taken directly from the survey, as typed in by the students. Examples are given to illustrate common themes.

## POSTSECONDARY INTENTIONS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

**Table 2. Within a Year After Graduating From High School, What Do You Plan To Do? (Item 7)**

Plan	All HS		McCallum HS	
	2006-2007	2007-2008	2006-2007	2007-2008
Continue my education*	89.0%	92.2%	89.9%	95.5%
Travel	18.3%	19.3%	15.6%	25.7%
Be a full-time parent	2.2%	2.2%	0.8%	1.0%
Go into the military	2.6%	2.8%	0.8%	1.7%
Work full-time	13.2%	13.6%	10.5%	12.8%
Work part-time	35.5%	41.1%	31.1%	40.6%
No plans	5.6%	2.4%	7.0%	1.0%

*Note.* Respondents may select more than one option; percentages will not total 100%.

\*Item was recoded to match longitudinal data. In 2008, this involved two items: “Attend a school or college for a business, technical, trade, or vocational certificate” and “Attend a college or university for a degree.” The percentage represents the total percent of students who chose either or both options.

**Table 3. If You Are Not Planning to Pursue Further Education at This Time, What Are Your Primary Reasons? (Item 8)**

Reason	All HS		McCallum HS	
	2006-2007	2007-2008	2006-2007	2007-2008
Cannot afford to attend school	25.9%	16.9%	19.2%	15.4%
Childcare responsibilities	7.8%	4.4%	3.8%	0.0%
Other family responsibilities*	**	11.7%	*	7.7%
Don’t like attending school	15.8%	19.4%	19.2%	30.8%
Grades/test scores aren’t high enough	19.8%	16.5%	26.9%	15.4%
Don’t feel academically prepared	13.4%	13.7%	11.5%	15.4%
Need income to support myself	28.9%	21.8%	38.5%	23.1%
Need income to support others	9.6%	6.1%	3.8%	0.0%
My career goals do not require further education*	**	10.1%	3.8%	0.4%
Other	16.8%	22.6%	34.6%	7.7%

*Note.* Respondents may select more than one option; percentages will not total 100%.

\*New response option in 2008; it previously read, “Not needed for job.” Because very few students indicated that they would not pursue further education within a year, percentages should be interpreted with caution.

**Table 4. If You Are Not Planning to Pursue Further Education at This Time, Do You Intend to Pursue It at a Later Time? (Item 9)**

Response	All HS		McCallum HS	
	2006-2007	2007-2008	2006-2007	2007-2008
Probably or Definitely Yes*	51.9%	59.2%	81.8%	66.7%
Maybe	21.3%	19.3%	13.6%	8.3%
Probably or Definitely No*	4.7%	10.5%	4.5%	25.0%
Don’t know	22.1%	11.0%	0.0%	0.0%

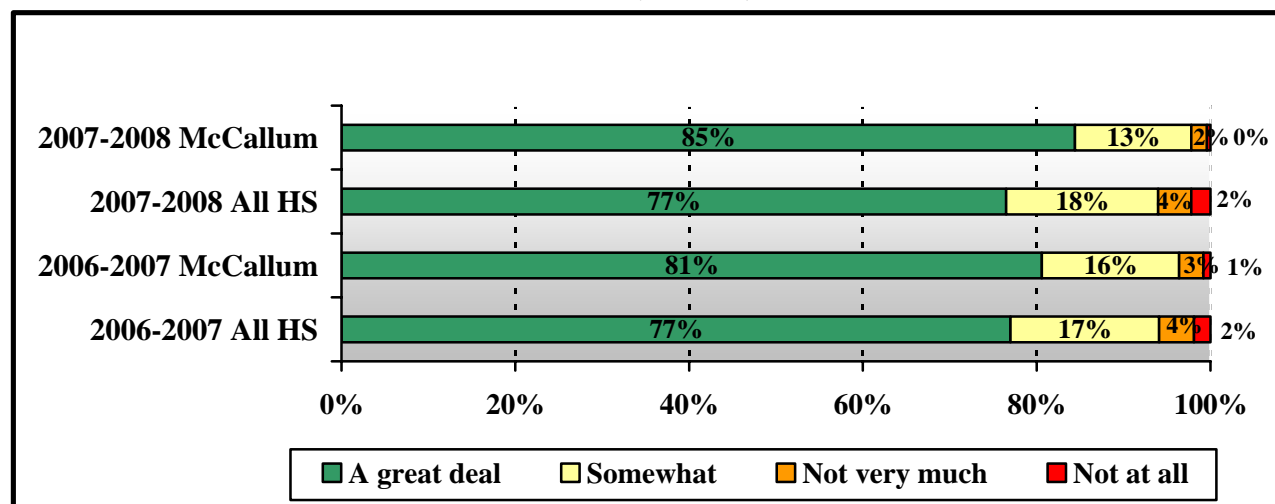
\*Response options were collapsed for ease in reporting. Because very few students indicated that they would not pursue further education within a year, percentages should be interpreted with caution.

**Table 5. If You Decide to Pursue Further Education at a Later Time, Would You Like to Come Back to Your High School for Support and Assistance With the Application and Financial Aid Process? (Item 10)**

Response	2007-2008	
	All HS	McCallum HS
Yes	26.6%	46.2%
No	30.13%	30.8%
Not Sure	43.2%	23.1%

*Note:* This item was new in 2008. Because very few students indicated that they would not pursue further education within a year, percentages should be interpreted with caution.

**Figure 1. To What Extent Do Your Parents / Family Support Your Plans for After High School? (Item 11)**



**Table 6. To What Extent Were Your Parents Involved in the Following School-Related Things? (Item 12)**

Activity	2007-2008	
	All HS	McCallum HS
Working with you on homework or school projects	54.6%	55.2%
Volunteering at your school	40.0%	43.7%
Helping you decide what classes to take	60.2%	61.7%
Attending school activities or meetings	54.9%	63.7%
Communicating with your teachers.	60.6%	62.9%
School leadership opportunities (Campus Advisory Council, event committees, etc.)*	29.1%	29.8%
Attending athletic events and competitions*	58.8%	65.8%
Attending academic events and competitions*	37.0%	40.1%
Attending performance events (e.g., dance, theater, band)*	53.3%	61.3%
Joining and participating in the PTA*	27.1%	31.7%

*Note:* Percentage is of the number of students reporting that parents were involved at least "Occasionally." Response options include: Never, Rarely, Occasionally, Often, and Consistently.

\*New items included corresponding with items from the AISD Parent Survey.

**Table 7. Will You Be The First Person in Your Immediate Family to Attend College?  
(Item 13)**

	All HS		McCallum HS	
	2006-2007	2007-2008	2006-2007	2007-2008
<b>“Yes”</b>	29.1%	30.0%	19.2%	20.2%

**Table 8. How Far Did Your Parents Go in School?  
Indicate Your Mother and Father’s Highest Level of Education. (Item 15)**

Education Level	2007-2008			
	All HS		McCallum HS	
	Mother	Father	Mother	Father
<b>Did not finish high school</b>	18.6%	17.9%	6.0%	9.3%
<b>Graduated from high school or earned a GED</b>	17.4%	16.9%	14.4%	16.7%
<b>Attended a 2-yr community/junior college or vocational/technical school, but no degree</b>	8.6%	6.5%	9.8%	5.7%
<b>Graduated from a 2-yr community/junior college or vocational/technical school</b>	5.4%	3.9%	5.3%	2.5%
<b>Attended a 4-yr college, but did not complete a degree</b>	6.5%	7.0%	6.7%	7.5%
<b>Graduated from college</b>	21.6%	19.2%	30.2%	22.4%
<b>Completed a Master’s degree or equivalent</b>	12.1%	12.5%	18.6%	17.4%
<b>Completed a Ph.D., M.D., or other advanced professional degree</b>	3.8%	6.4%	6.3%	1.4%
<b>Don’t Know or Does Not Apply</b>	6.0%	9.6%	2.8%	9.3%

## HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCES, CAMPUS CLIMATE, AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

**Table 9. How Many Different High Schools Have You Attended? (Item 3)**

# of schools	All HS		McCallum HS	
	2006-2007	2007-2008	2006-2007	2007-2008
<b>1</b>	76.1%	77.5%	75.9%	83.0%
<b>2</b>	16.8%	16.8%	16.0%	12.2%
<b>3 or more</b>	7.2%	5.6%	4.7%	4.9%

**Table 10. Please Indicate the Number of Years of High School in Which You Participated in Each of These Extracurricular Activities. (Items 16 & 18)**

	All HS 2007-2008 % with 1 or More Years	McCallum HS 2007-2008 % with 1 or More Years
<b>In school</b>		
<b>Music</b>	35.2%	44.0%
<b>Theater/Drama</b>	20.4%	27.1%
<b>Dance</b>	23.2%	21.7%
<b>Sports</b>	58.8%	65.8%
<b>UIL Academic Competition</b>	18.8%	21.3%
<b>Speech/Debate</b>	21.2%	27.8%
<b>Student Government</b>	16.5%	15.9%
<b>Other</b>	30.7%	31.9%
<b>Outside of school</b>		
<b>Music</b>	30.3%	40.7%
<b>Theater/Drama</b>	11.7%	15.9%
<b>Dance</b>	17.0%	17.2%
<b>Sports</b>	52.0%	56.5%
<b>Community Service/Volunteering</b>	57.1%	56.5%
<b>Environmental Projects/Activities</b>	25.4%	29.9%
<b>Boy/Girl Scouts</b>	8.9%	9.3%
<b>Family Care</b>	19.8%	17.5%
<b>Other Organizations</b>	13.1%	11.8%

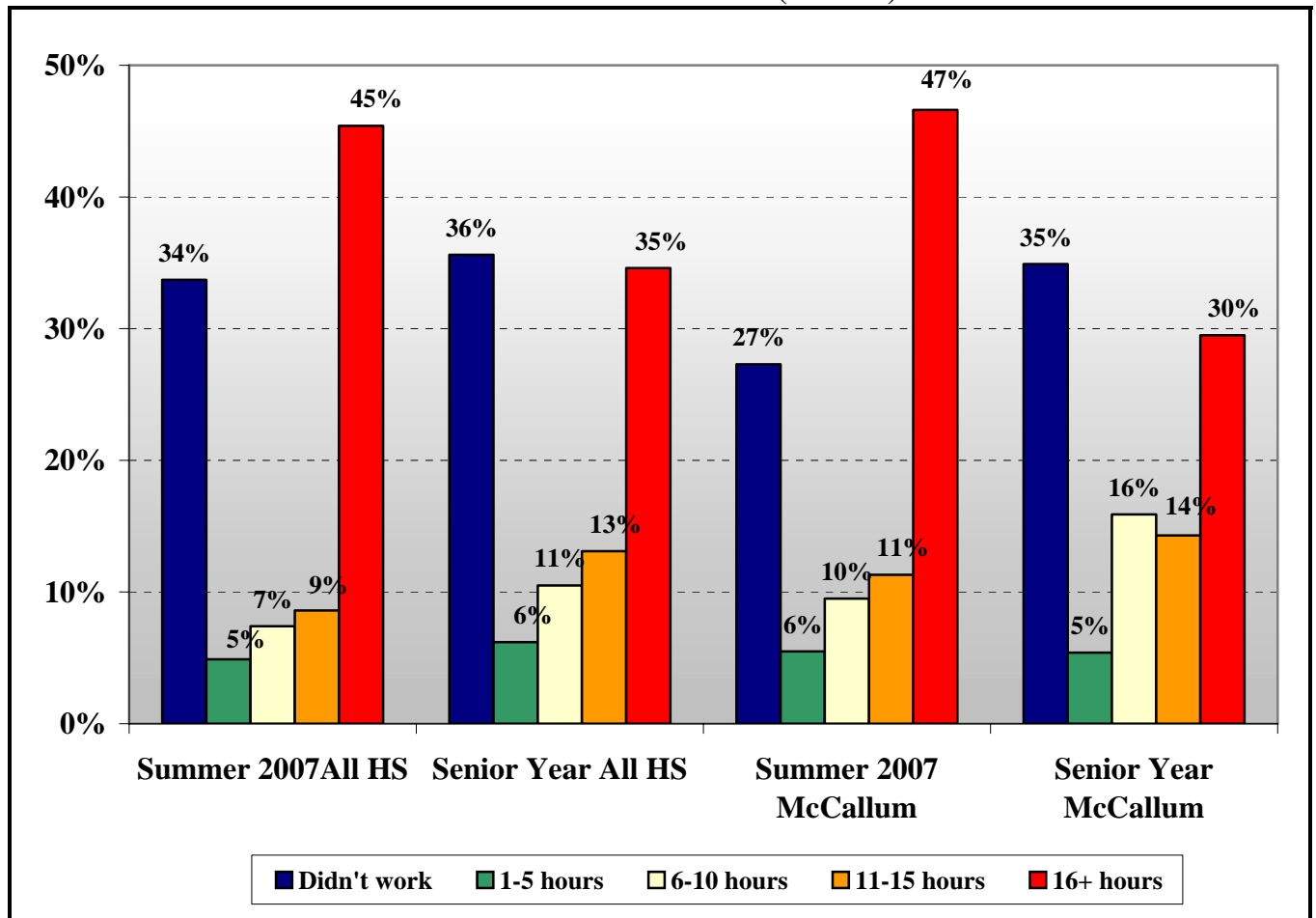
*Note.* Respondents may select more than one option; percentages will not total 100%. Percentages indicate the number of students who reported at least one year of participation.

**Table 11. Please Indicate the Number of Years of High School That You Have Been Employed (Either During the Year or During the Summer). (Item 21)**

	2007-2008	
	All HS	McCallum HS
<b>0 Years</b>	24.4%	20.6%
<b>1 Year</b>	28.2%	29.2%
<b>2 Years</b>	26.2%	27.0%
<b>3 Years</b>	13.7%	16.4%
<b>4 Years</b>	7.5%	6.8%

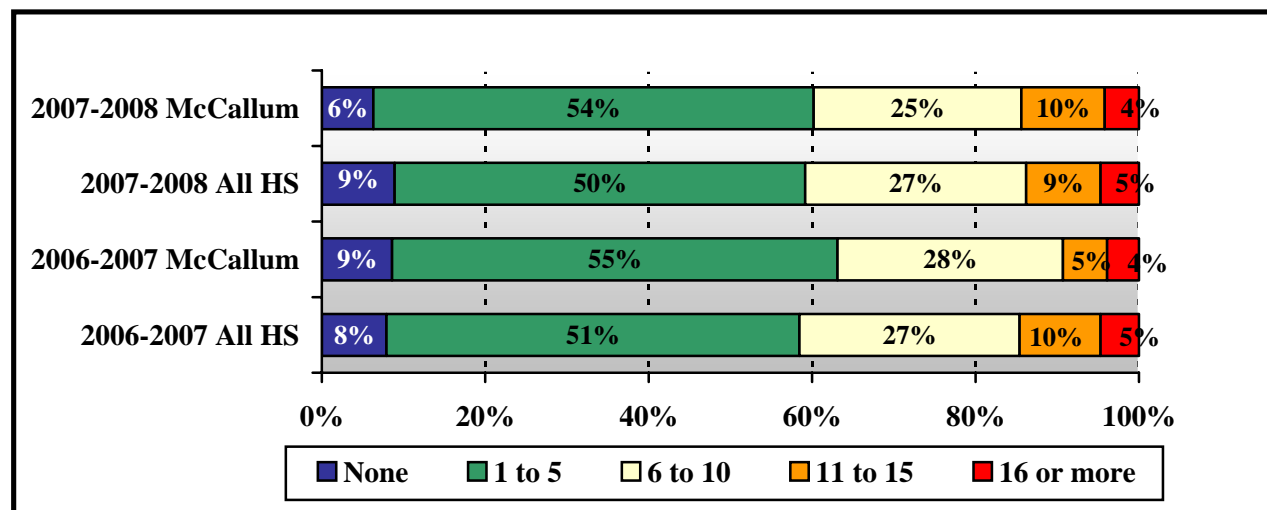
*Note.* This item was new in 2008.

**Figure 2. Now Indicate the Number of Hours Per Week That You Have Worked During Your Senior Year and Last Summer. (Item 22)**

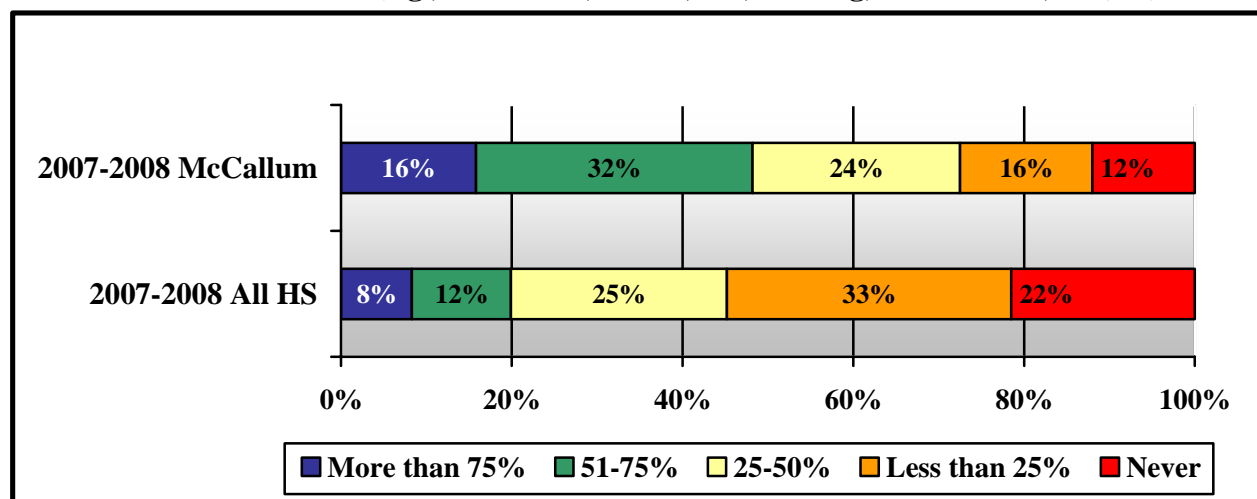


*Note.* This item was new in 2008.

**Figure 3. Thinking Back on Your Years in High School, How Many Hours per Week Did You Typically Spend Studying, Doing Research, or Completing Homework Assignments Outside of Class? (Item 23)**



**Figure 4. On Average, What Percentage of Your Study, Research and Homework Was Done Without Distractions (e.g., Television, Music, IM, Texting, Phone Calls, etc.)? (Item 24)**



*Note.* This item was new in 2008.



**Table 12. Please Mark the Item That Best Indicates How You Feel: (Item 25a-k)**

		2007-2008	
	All HS Seniors	McCallum HS Grade 9-11	McCallum HS Seniors
School climate			
I feel safe at my school	3.4	3.1	3.4
My classmates show respect to each other	2.9	2.9	2.9
The consequences for breaking school rules are the same for everyone	2.7	2.8	2.7
Adults at this school listen to student ideas and opinions	2.8	2.8	2.8
There is at least one adult at my school who I can go to if I have a problem	3.3	3.2	3.2
My teachers are fair to everyone	2.9	2.8	2.8
Academic climate			
My homework helps me learn things I need to know.	2.9	2.8	2.9
I know how I am doing in school	3.4	3.1	3.6
My teachers expected me to do my best work.	3.6	3.5	3.6
My classes were rigorous and challenging*	3.1	*	3.0
My high school coursework has been relevant to my life*	2.7	*	2.7

*Note.* Average responses were calculated using the following scale: 1 (Never), 2 (Not a Lot), 3 (Sometimes), 4 (Always); responses of 'Don't Know' are not included. Items and subscales regarding School Climate and Academic Climate questionnaires were modified for the Class of 2008 corresponding to the AISD Student Climate Survey. Therefore, longitudinal data are not available.

\*These items are asked only on the High School Exit Survey.

**Table 13. Please Answer the Following Questions About Your Civic Engagement.  
(Items 5 & 6)**

Question	2007-2008			
	All HS		McCallum HS	
	Students Under 18	Students 18 or older	Students Under 18	Students 18 or older
Are you registered to vote?	n/a	51.0%	n/a	61.5%
Have you voted in any school board, city, county, state, or national election?	n/a	23.3%	n/a	31.7%
Will you register to vote after your 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday?	77.3%	n/a	85.9%	n/a
Do you plan to vote in the presidential election in November? *	66.2%	70.3%	85.1%	74.4%

\*This response option was new in 2008.

## INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY

**Table 14. How Well Did Your High School Help You to Actively Develop Knowledge and Skills in the Following Areas? (Item 26)**

Area	Somewhat well or Very well			
	All HS		McCallum HS	
	2006-2007	2007-2008	2006-2007	2007-2008
Teamwork	*	88.6%	*	89.8%
Creative Thinking	90.8%	90.6%	92.6%	93.3%
Problem Solving	92.9%	91.5%	94.6%	91.9%
Conflict Resolution	84.6%	82.8%	83.7%	82.7%
Personal Health/Fitness	78.5%	78.6%	70.3%	76.2%
Time Management	*	80.8%	*	81.0%
Technology	*	84.6%	*	88.0%

*Note.* Responses include: Not well, Somewhat well, and Very well. Percentages indicate the number of students who responded Somewhat well or Very well.

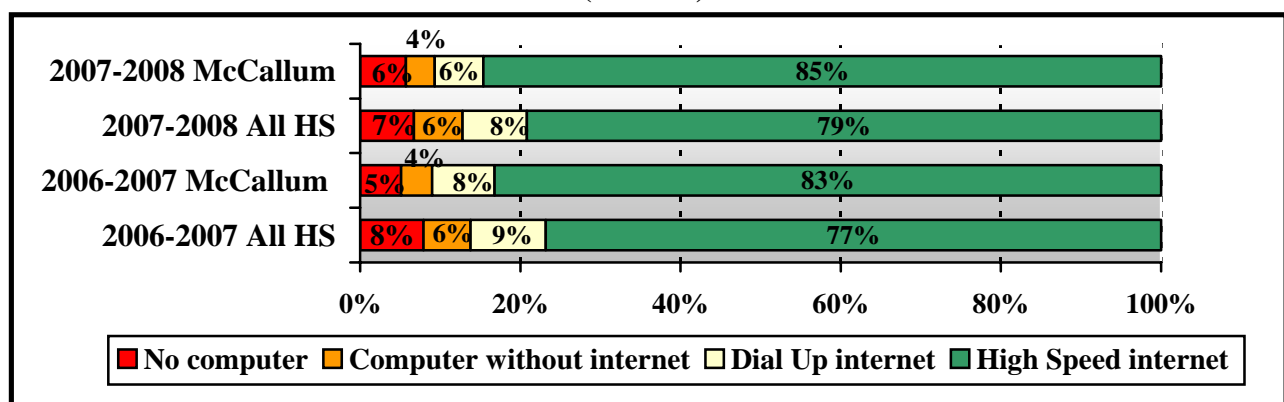
\*Indicates a response option added in 2008.

**Table 15. Please Rate the Quality of Instruction That You Feel That You Received in the Following Areas: (Item 27)**

Area	Good or Excellent			
	All HS		McCallum HS	
	2006-2007	2007-2008	2006-2007	2007-2008
Writing	82.6%	81.3%	80.1%	82.7%
Mathematics	71.3%	70.7%	78.1%	73.6%
Science	68.9%	69.5%	59.1%	71.5%
Social Studies	84.2%	82.8%	89.5%	83.4%
Computer/Technology	71.0%	71.9%	71.7%	83.4%
Foreign Language	64.5%	63.9%	49.2%	53.9%
Performing/Fine Arts	72.2%	73.9%	79.6%	53.9%

*Note.* Responses include: Poor, Fair, Good, and Excellent. Percentages are of the number of students reporting Good or Excellent.

**Figure 5. Which Of The Following Describes Your Computer and Internet Access at Home? (Item 14)**



**Table 16. How Frequently Do You Use a Computer... (Item 28)**

Use	Once a Week or More 2007-2008	
	All HS	McCallum HS
At home?	86.7%	88.7%
At school?	74.0%	73.9%
To present material in class, for example, using PowerPoint?	23.5%	18.5%
To type a paper or class assignment?	55.4%	59.4%
To search the Internet to complete class-related assignments?	61.6%	62.4%
To research college/career choices?	50.6%	55.8%
To complete online forms or applications for college/employment?	44.0%	44.3%
To communicate with teachers (e.g., email, IM, etc.)?	20.8%	15.2%
To communicate with friends (e.g., email, IM, blog, Facebook, etc.)?	74.8%	73.4%
To participate in online communities (Facebook, blogs, discussion boards, etc.)?	56.9%	61.6%

*Note.* Responses include: Never, Less than Once a Week, Once or Twice a Week, Every Day or Almost Every Day. Previous reports indicated item means; percentages represent the number of students reporting At Least Once a Week or More.

**Table 17. Indicate How Much You Agree With Each of the Following Statements About Technology Use at School (Item 29)**

Use	Agree or Strongly Agree 2007-2008	
	All HS	McCallum HS
My teachers effectively use the technology resources that are available	85.7%	85.7%
I would like to use more electronic communication with my classmates as part of my schoolwork	79.9%	72.2%
I would like to use more electronic communication with my teachers	73.2%	63.8%
I would like to use more online resources	82.1%	72.7%

*Note:* Responses include: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Disagree and Don't Know/Unsure; Percentages are of the number of students who said Agree or Strongly Agree.

## POST-SECONDARY PREPARATION AND ADVISING

**Table 18. At What Time in Your Life Did You Start Thinking About College as a Possibility After High School? (Item 30)**

Time	All HS		McCallum HS	
	2006-2007	2007-2008	2006-2007	2007-2008
As long as I can remember	39.1%	40.5%	41.4%	47.5%
In elementary school	*	8.5%	17.6%	9.9%
In middle/junior high school	21.0%	21.8%	22.7%	19.7%
In high school	25.3%	26.8%	17.6%	21.5%
I've never thought about college as an option after high school	2.5%	2.3%	0.8%	1.4%

\*Item changed from previous surveys when it was, "When I was a child."

**Table 19. High School Preparation for Post-Graduation Opportunities (Item 31a-D & Item 20)**

Preparation	Somewhat well or Very well 2007-2008	
	All HS	McCallum HS
How well prepared were you to plan your high school course selections?	91.2%	94.7%
How well prepared were you to meet your college and career goals?	88.4%	91.5%
How well prepared are/were you for the college/technical/vocational school application process?	83.4%	88.2%
How well informed are/were you about obtaining financial aid for education after high school (whether or not you applied)?	81.6%	86.2%
I received extra help early in the school year so I could graduate on time (percent responding "yes")	23.4%	18.5%

*Note.* Response options include: Not well, Somewhat well, and Very well. Previous surveys reported item means; in 2008, percentages reflect the number of students who responded Somewhat well or Very well.

**Table 20. How Did You Prepare for Continuing Education? (Check All That Apply)  
(Items 32 & 35)**

Preparation	All HS		McCallum HS	
	2006-2007	2007-2008	2006-2007	2007-2008
Took the PSAT examination	57.9%	68.0%	68.5%	78.8%
Took AP/IB classes	45.3%	48.6%	49.0%	50.7%
Visited campuses	44.0%	51.8%	48.2%	58.7%
Attended college fairs	44.4%	48.6%	40.9%	49.7%
Completed and submitted a FAFSA	41.3%	49.3%	47.5%	62.8%
Completed and submitted a scholarship application	30.8%	41.5%	37.7%	62.8%
Took college entrance tests	65.6%	72.4%	75.1%	82.3%
Took test prep class	38.2%	41.7%	42.4%	46.9%
Completed ACC courses	23.3%	29.4%	38.9%	44.4%
Ordered and submitted transcripts	40.3%	50.3%	49.4%	64.9%
Applied to a 2-year college (including ACC)*	49.8%	41.1%	40.1%	37.2%
Applied to a 4-year college*	69.1%	63.9%	74.3%	74.7%
Applied to a business/technical/vocational school*	13.8%	6.5%	8.6%	6.3%

*Note.* Respondents may select more than one option; percentages will not total 100%.

\*An answer to this item was required in 2006-07, therefore percentages may not be entirely comparable.

**Table 21. In Which of The Following College Preparation Programs Did You Participate While in High School? (Item 33)**

Program	2007-2008	
	All HS	McCallum HS
Project ADVANCE	26.1%	4.9%
AVID	8.9%	13.2%
ACC College Connections	17.1%	13.5%
College Forward	3.0%	1.0%
Hispanic Mother/Daughter	3.0%	1.7%
Talent Search/Trio	2.6%	1.0%
Upward Bound	1.8%	1.4%
Gear Up	3.1%	1.4%
Breakthrough	1.5%	1.4%
College 101	3.3%	1.4%
I did not participate in any programs like this	41.6%	49.7%
Other	4.9%	5.6%

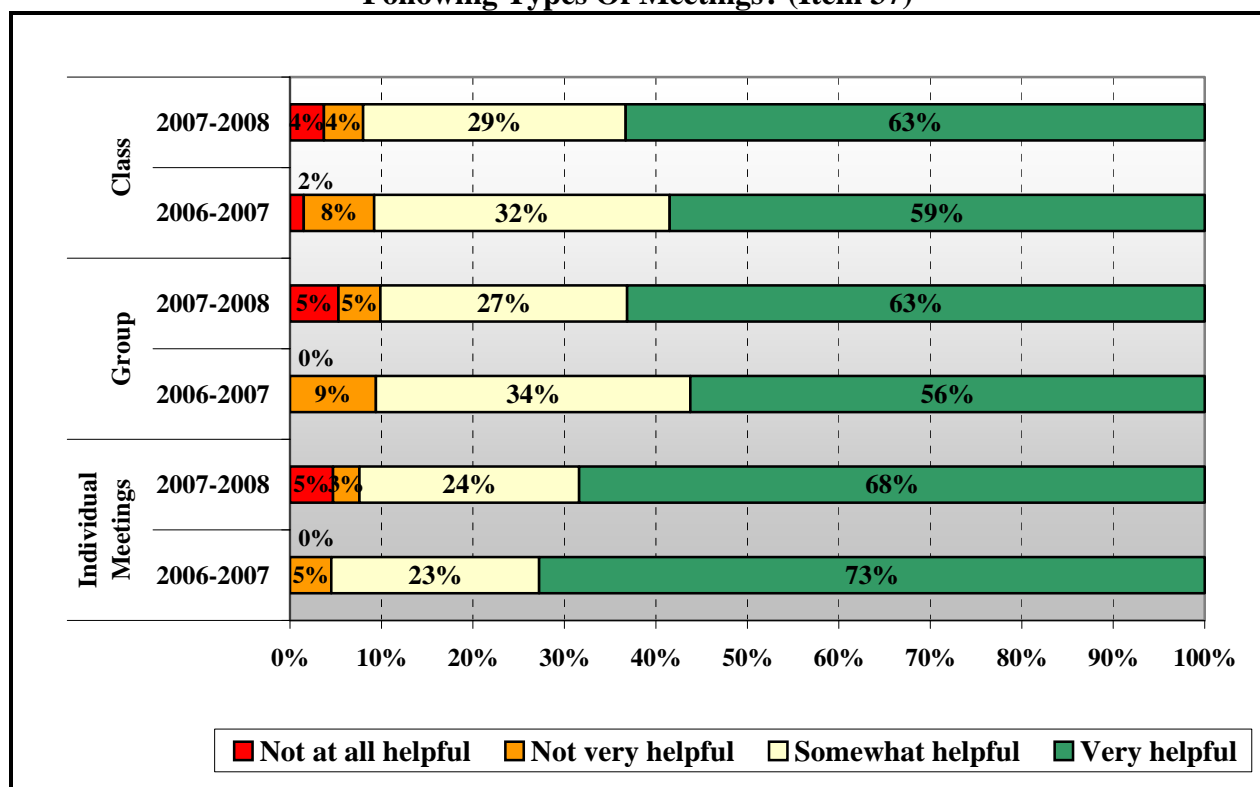
*Note.* This item is new to the 2008 Exit Survey.

**Table 22. If You Participated in One or More College Preparation Programs, What Did You Get Out of It? (Item 34)**

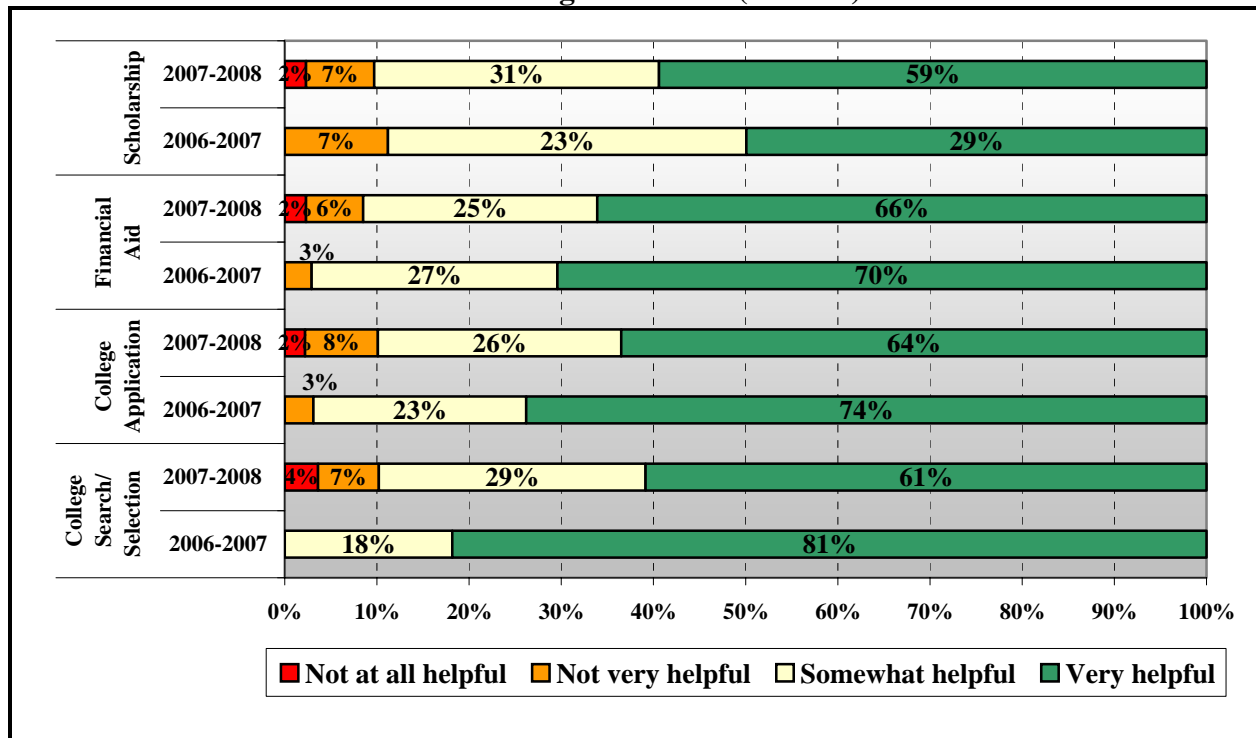
Benefit	2007-2008	
	All HS	McCallum HS
They encouraged me to attend school regularly	35.3%	34.5%
They helped me choose the HS courses to prepare for college	31.8%	30.3%
They explained the financial aid process to me	37.9%	38.6%
They were available to help with school-related issues	29.1%	27.6%
They helped me deal with personal issues	18.7%	12.4%
They helped me believe that college was right for me	33.4%	31.0%
They helped me apply to college	47.3%	43.5%
Other	8.6%	5.5%

*Note.* This item is new to the 2008 Exit Survey.

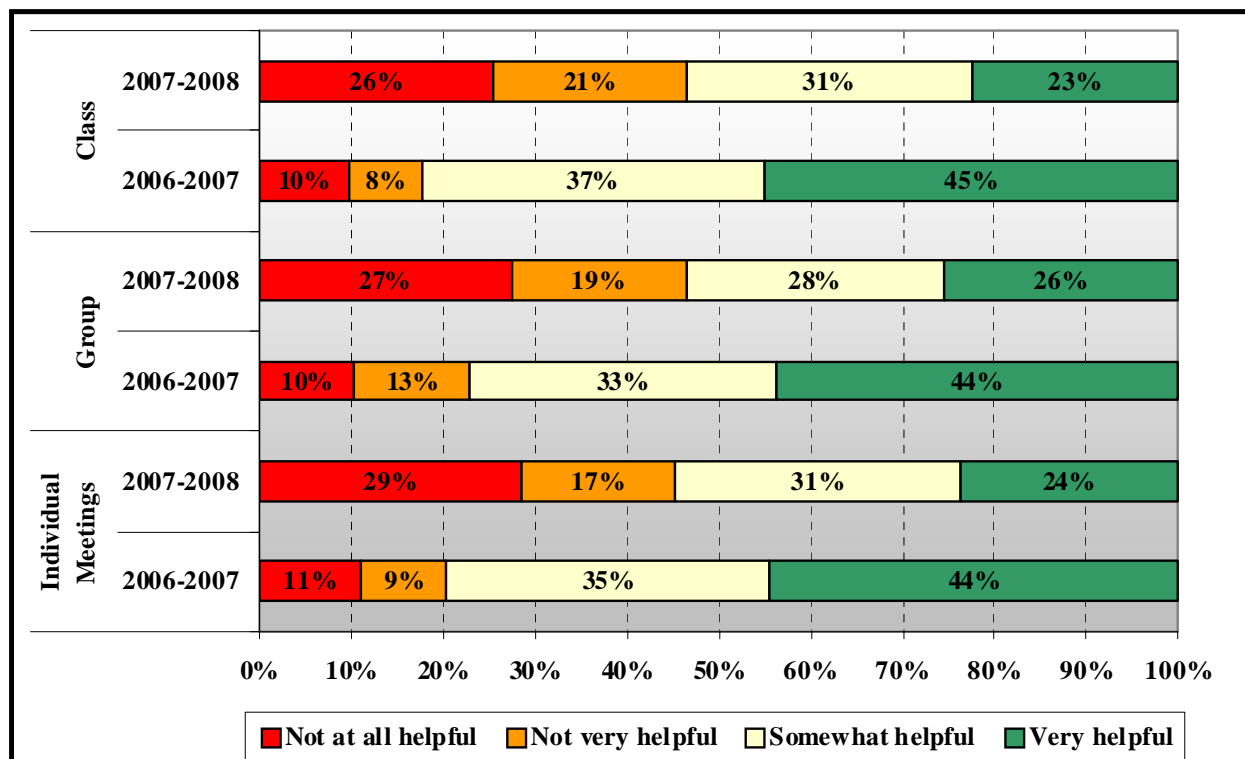
**Figure 6. How Helpful Was Your Project ADVANCE Facilitator/College Advisor in the Following Types Of Meetings? (Item 37)**



**Figure 7. How Helpful Was Your Project ADVANCE Facilitator/College Advisor With the Following Processes? (Item 38)**

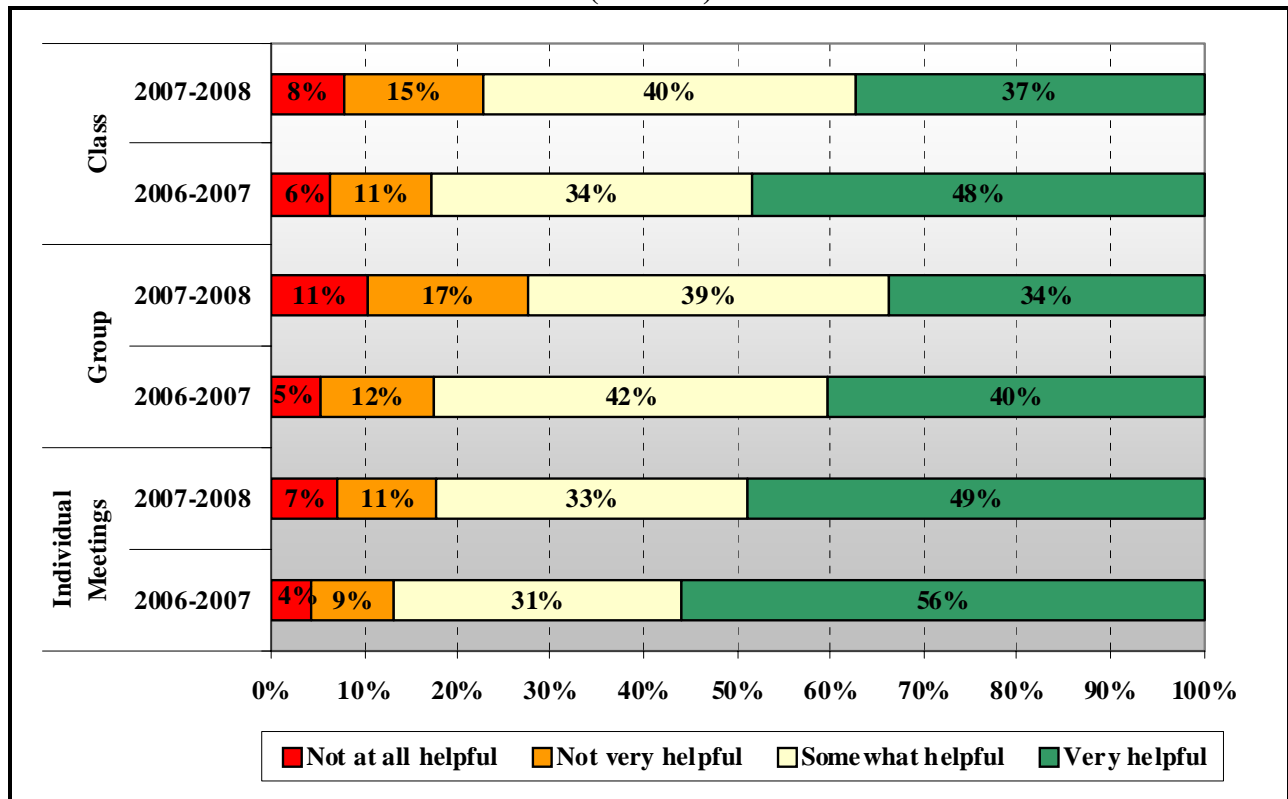


**Figure 8. How Helpful Was Your Advocate/Advisory Teacher in the Following Types of Meetings? (Item 40)**



*Note.* In 2007, there were separate items for Advocate and Advisory teachers. The 2006-2007 data reported here are regarding Advisory teachers only.

**Figure 9. How Helpful Was Your School Counselor in the Following Types of Meetings?  
(Item 41)**



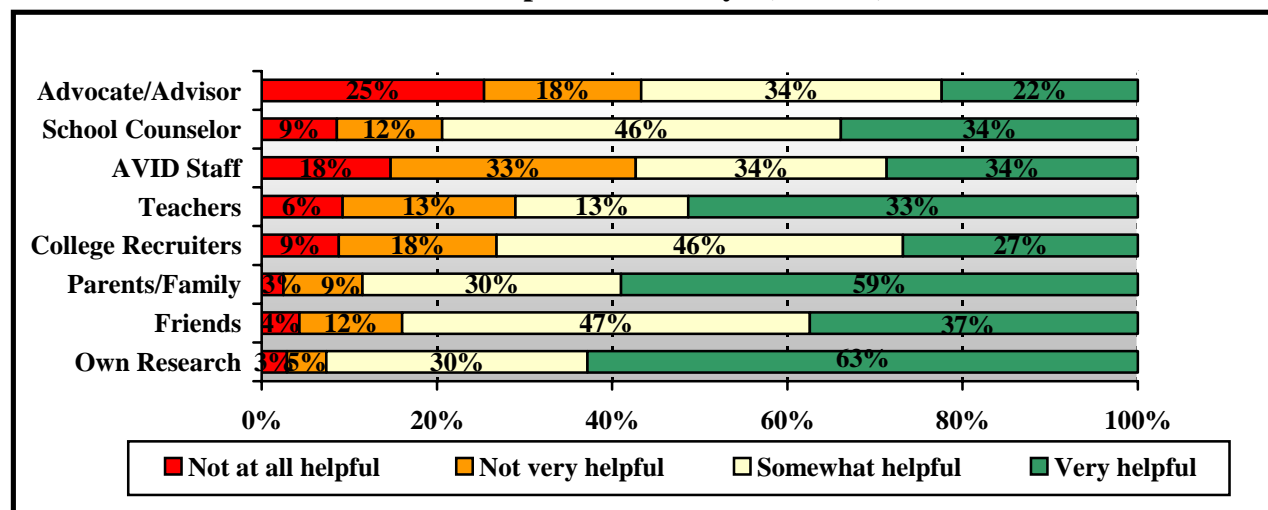


**Table 23. For Which of the Following Issues Did You Meet With a School Counselor?  
(Item 42)**

Issue	2007-2008	
	All HS	McCallum HS
Scheduling	77.5%	79.5%
Course selection & placement	58.4%	61.1%
Graduation plans	53.2%	58.0%
4 year plan	26.4%	29.2%
Graduation credit verification	37.4%	36.8%
Testing interpretation	17.0%	12.8%
Career information	18.5%	11.8%
College information/applications	38.8%	38.5%
Writing resumes/ job applications	11.2%	10.8%
Financial aid information/ applications	21.3%	24.3%
Scholarship information/applications	24.1%	31.9%
Writing college essays	11.5%	9.7%
Conflict resolution	12.2%	10.1%
Personal and/or family issues	13.2%	11.1%
Parent conference	10.4%	13.9%
Teacher conference	6.4%	8.7%
Grades/test scores/academic performance	41.6%	36.8%
Other	3.2%	3.5%

\*Response option was new in 2008.

**Figure 10. Which of the Following People (Other Than Your Project ADVANCE Counselor) Helped You to Prepare for the College/Technical /Vocational School Application Process and How Helpful Were They? (Item 39)**



*Note.* This item has changed from previous years surveys, which did not ask students to indicate the level of helpfulness. Results do not include the response, “Doesn’t apply.”

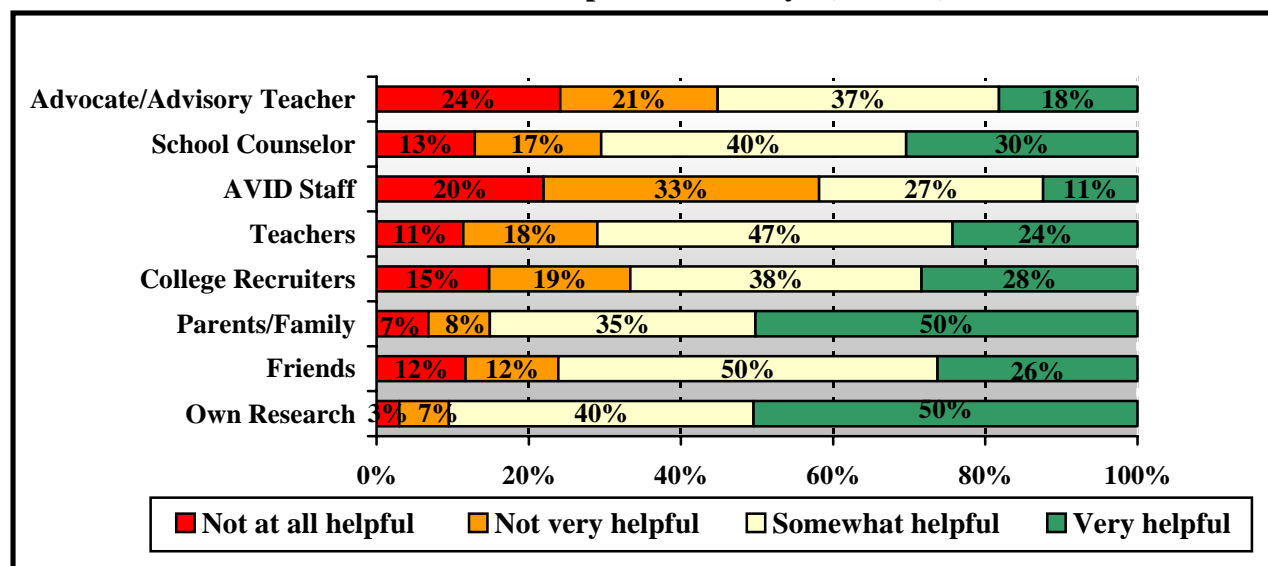
**Table 24. How Important Is Each of the Following in Choosing a College? (Item 36)**

Reason	Somewhat or Very important 2007-2008	
	All HS	McCallum HS
College expenses	91.7%	91.0%
Availability of financial aid	90.1%	90.3%
Availability of specific courses or curriculum	95.1%	94.2%
Reputation of the college in athletic programs	61.4%	55.6%
Social life at the college	86.4%	87.0%
Ability to live at home and attend college	61.5%	47.7%
Ability to live away from home*	78.3%	79.5%
Job or employment placement record of the college	81.9%	77.5%
Reputation of the college in academic programs	90.1%	77.5%
Easy admission standards	72.0%	61.5%
Ability to take courses online	54.5%	46.4%
Study abroad opportunities*	77.1%	75.5%
Service learning opportunities*	74.9%	72.3%
The school accepts dual-credit courses*	75.5%	72.3%
The school accepts AP/IB credits*	77.0%	73.0%

*Note.* Response options include: Not Important, Somewhat Important, and Very Important.

\*Item options were new in 2008. Percentages represent the number of students indicating Somewhat or Very important; in previous years, item means were reported.

**Figure 11. Which of the Following People (Other Than Your Project ADVANCE Counselor) Helped You Obtain Information About Financial Aid for Education After High School and How Helpful Were They? (Item 43)**



*Note.* This item has changed from previous years surveys, which did not ask students to indicate the level of helpfulness. Results do not include the response, "Doesn't apply."

**Table 25. How Easy Has It Been for You and Your Parents to Understand the Process of Financial Aid? (Item 44)**

Degree of ease	2007-2008	
	All HS	McCallum HS
Very Easy	17.0%	17.2%
Easy	21.2%	24.1%
Somewhat Easy, Somewhat Difficult	36.2%	40.5%
Difficult	7.9%	6.6%
Very Difficult	3.9%	2.2%
Did Not Apply for Financial Aid	13.9%	9.5%

*Note.* This item changed from previous year surveys, which asked, “How easy has it been to understand the process of financial aid (whether or not you applied)?”

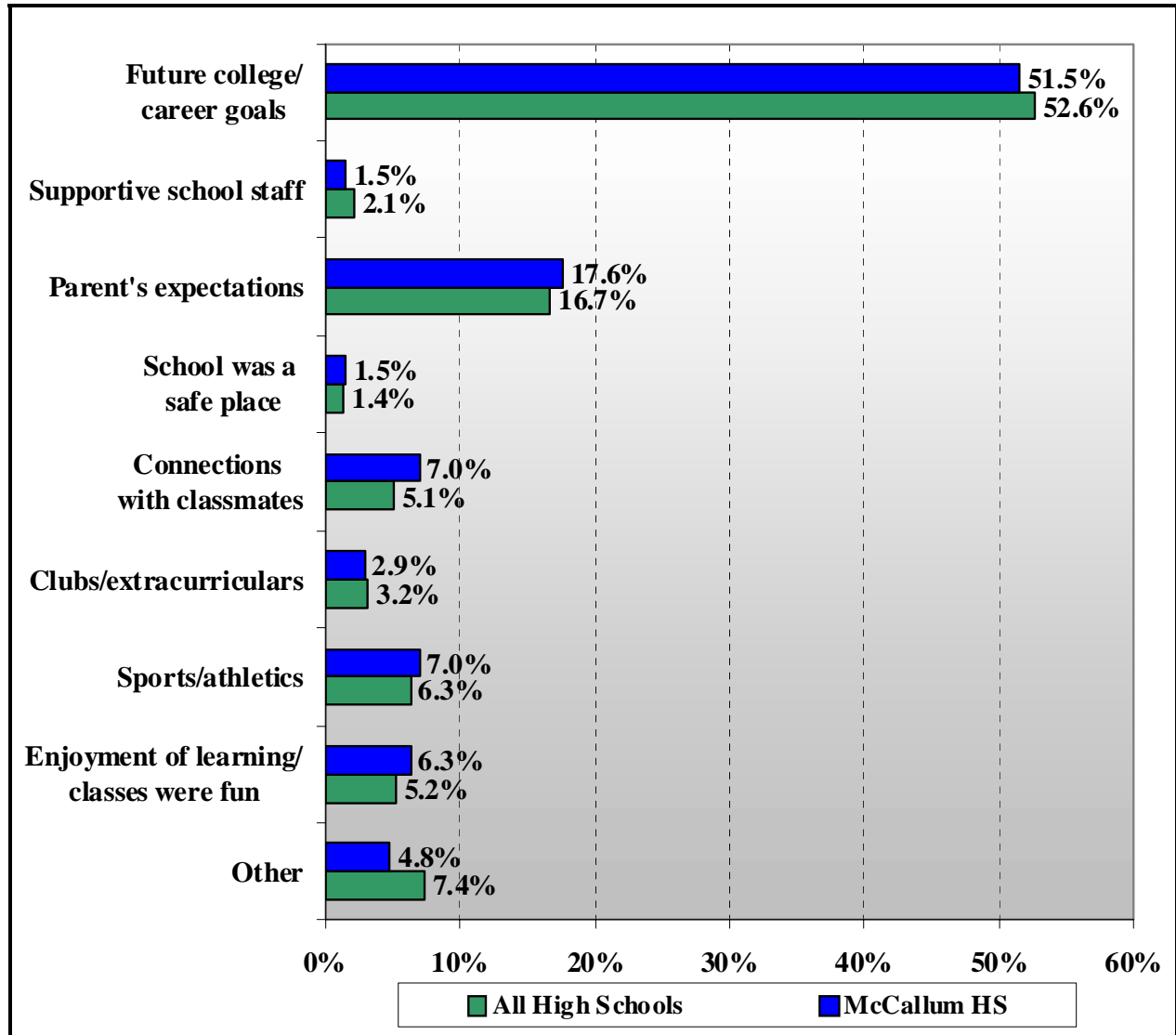
**Table 26. How Do You Plan to Pay for Your Education After High School? (Item 45)**

Means of payment	2007-08	
	All HS	McCallum HS
Financial aid	57.1%	57.3%
Scholarships	48.9%	58.7%
Personal savings	36.0%	36.8%
Family savings	45.8%	57.3%
Family members will take loans	13.5%	14.6%
I will take loans	28.0%	25.7%
Grants	26.7%	31.6%
Working during the school year	42.3%	38.9%
Working during summer	45.4%	47.6%
Work-study programs on campus	19.0%	26.7%
Don't know/unsure	14.8%	10.1%

*Note.* Respondents may select more than one option; percentages will not total 100%. This item was new in 2008.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

**Figure 12. What Is the One Thing That Was Most Important to Keeping You Going Through School All The Way to Graduation? (Item 46)**



*Note.* The wording of two response options was changed from previous years' surveys. In 2008, students were asked to rate "Supportive staff" whereas last year they reported on "Supportive teachers;" and the prior option, "Team/club activities" was split into "Clubs/extracurriculars" and Sports/athletics.